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Mental Tribunal President: “Sometimes the system needs a kicking”

In the latest hearing of Saeed Dezfouli, subject of the Background Briefing Report, the Mental Tribunal President expressed his frustration with the repeated failures of the Health Department to implement Tribunal recommendations. The Mental Tribunal President stated that he was “disappointed” and that ‘sometimes the system needs a kicking’.

This hearing was the first test in the power struggle between the Health Department and the Mental Health Review Tribunal following a series of Supreme Court challenges by Saeed Dezfouli. The Lindsay judgment giving power to the Tribunal had been treated with contempt by the hospital. At least the Tribunal got a whiff of what Saeed has endured over the past thirteen years.

Justice Health not only failed with Saeed’s access to his computer they also denied him support from Health Department employed consumer workers. The treating psychiatrist, whose name can’t be published, said her support depended on his submitting to her control. The Tribunal disagreed and said ‘they were separate issues’.

Not only has the NSW Health Department shown that it is out of control, sitting on its \$17 billion annual budget, but the Attorney General continued this week to demand \$60,000 court costs for Saeed’s challenges, from Brett Collins as his primary carer, despite knowing it is wrongly based. Both the ALP and the Greens have intervened on our behalf. Justice Action is proud to stand beside Saeed, suffering abuse of power, threatened with an arrest warrant.